

Meshomasic Hiking Club Winter 2019 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; R=bike ride; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Tuesday, January 1, 10:30a - Gay City State Park, Hebron: Resolved: Start the New Year off right with a hike! Reconnect with old friends and meet some new ones. Roughly 3-mile hike by Split Rock, Gay City Pond, and Blackledge River and return to parking lot. Bail out or hike similar distance by old ruins, beaver lodge, and the Blackledge River. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron for a 10:30 start. RSVP by 12/31 to Connie at 860-690-9391.

Wednesday, January 2, 9:00a - Lay Preserve, Old Lyme: A 6-mile hike on a 185-acre land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/01 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursdays, January 3 through March 28, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: This hike happens each Thursday at the same location but check with Chantal in case of a change. We do a 3.6-mile loop at a good pace with a fairly-steep climb of 300 feet. We complete the loop at 10:30 am. Friendly, well-managed dogs are welcome. Rating: B2. No kids please. Hiking boots only. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by the day prior to Chantal at 860-573-2946.

Friday, January 4, 9:00a - Tritown Forest Exploratory, Griswold: A 6-mile exploratory hike on a new 406-acre land trust preserve. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 01/03 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, January 5, 10:00a - Doug Smith Island, Manchester: A walk of about 3 miles along the Manchester portion of the Hockanum River Trail, including the island named for the man most identified with this trail. Rating: C3. Kids OK but no dogs. Hiking boots are recommended. Prepare for possible wet areas. Bring food and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Manchester Kohl's parking lot. Take I-84 to exit 63. Drive east for 0.4 miles on Deming Street (Route 30) which is a left turn off the exit ramp if you were driving east on I-84. Turn left into the Kohl's parking lot, and drive to the right side of the lot toward the back by the fence. RSVP by 01/04 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Sunday, January 6, 9:45a - Harkness Memorial State Park, Waterford: Come and hike a gentle 4 miles in one of Connecticut's most beautiful state parks featuring a wildlife marsh preserve, shoreline beach, stunning views of Long Island sound, historic gardens and architecture from a bygone era. Learn more at www.harkness.org. Binoculars may be fun. We will walk on grass and park roads. Rating: C3. Kids and leashed dogs OK. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the main state park parking area at 9:45 am for 10 am start. From I-95 northbound, take exit 75, go straight onto Route 1. Drive for 3.8 miles and turn right on Avery Lane. Continue straight through the next intersection onto Route 213. Drive 3.1 miles farther to the park entrance. 275 Great Neck Road, Waterford. There is ample parking. Questions? Contact Laurette at 860-614-4021 or laurettesaller@gmail.com.

***Tuesday, January 8, 9:00a - Colchester Air Line Spur, Colchester:** A 6.6-mile out-and-back hike on level ground of an old rail spur to the Air Line Trail. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the Colchester station house off Route 16 (Lebanon Road) 0.4 mile northeast of Main Street in Colchester at 9:30. RSVP by 01/07 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 9, 9:00a - Lena Preserve, East Haddam: A 6-mile hike on a 206-acre land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 01/08 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, January 11, 9:00a - Cockaponset State Forest - Turkey Hill Reservoir Block, Haddam: A hike of 7 to 9 miles in a northern section of the Cockaponset S. F. including a visit to Turkey Hill Reservoir. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. Contact me if you want to meet at the trail head. RSVP by 01/11 to Tony by phone or text at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Saturday, January 12, 9:45a - Gay City State Park to Blackledge Falls, Hebron: A roughly 6-mile hike by the Blackledge River, scenic ponds, and rock formations to the Falls. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron for a 9:45 start. RSVP by 01/11 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

***Tuesday, January 15, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, Westchester:** A 6- to 7-mile out-and-back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Hebron. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot on Route 149 just south of Route 2, exit 16. Alternatively, from Route 16 in Westchester, take Route 149 north to the parking lot just before you get to Route 2. RSVP by 01/14 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 16, 9:00a - Meshomasic Mystery Hike, Portland: A 6-mile hike to a strange phenomenon on Little Piney Hill. There will be a short bushwhack to the site. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 01/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, January 19, 8:20a - Penwood and Talcott Mountain State Parks, Simsbury / Bloomfield: This will be a 10- to 12-mile hike including many ups and downs and beautiful views with a chance to bail after 7 miles. Rating: B2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Winter traction devices may be needed. Bring lunch and drink. Steady snow or rain cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:20 or the Penwood State Park parking lot off Route 185 in Bloomfield at 9:00. RSVP by 01/18 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

Saturday, January 19, 1:00p - Reservoir Boil-up, Portland: A 5-mile hike to the big pines. A campfire will follow the hike. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 01/18 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Tuesday, January 22, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, Westchester:** A 6- to 7-mile out-and-back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards East Hampton/Bull Hill. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot on Route 149 just south of Route 2, exit 16. Alternatively, from Route 16 in Westchester, take Route 149 north to the parking lot just before you get to Route 2. RSVP by 01/21 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, January 23, 9:00a - Tanager Hill, Simsbury: A 6-mile hike in a town park with a connection to the Penwood State Park. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/22 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, January 26, 9:30a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: A roughly 4-mile hike with some Connecticut River views and interesting rock formations. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the lot at Hurd State Park entrance. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and meet at entrance on the right in a half mile. Don't park at lot by traffic light. RSVP by 01/25 to John Fry at 860-978-8503.

Sunday, January 27, 8:40a - Chauncey Peak and Mount Lamentation, Meriden: This will be a 5- or 6-mile hike on the two peaks with several beautiful views. Rating: C2. Kids who can keep up and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Winter traction devices may be needed. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather or deep snow cover cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:40 or at the Giuffrida Park parking lot on Westfield Road in Meriden at 9:00. RSVP by 01/26 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

***Tuesday, January 29, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, East Hampton:** A 6- to 7-mile out-and-back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Bull Hill. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith St. in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Route 196 south (Summit St.) just east of East Hampton center. In 0.4 mile turn left on Flanders Rd. then the next right on Smith St. The lot will be on the left immediately beyond the pond. RSVP by 01/28 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

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Wednesday, January 30, 9:00a - River Highlands State Park, Cromwell: A 6-mile hike in a state park on the Connecticut River. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/29 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, February 1, 9:00a - A Spruce Ledges Exploratory, Deep River: A 6-mile hike in a large forest block of the Cockaponset State Forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 01/31 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, February 2, 10:00a - Valley Falls and Tulip Tree Trail, Vernon: Get ready for the Super Bowl with a roughly 6-mile hike by streams, pond, ledge, and possibly Bolton Lake Dam. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Valley Falls parking lot for a 10:00 sharp start. From I-84 east, take exit 66, left at stop sign at end of exit, right at next stop sign onto Bolton road, in 1.4 miles take right onto Valley Falls Road, and then in a quarter mile, left into parking lot. RSVP by 02/01 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

***Tuesday, February 5, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail, Portland:** A 6-mile out-and-back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards downtown Portland. Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Depot Hill parking lot off Depot Hill Road in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Cobalt and turn north on Depot Hill Road. RSVP by 02/03 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, February 6, 9:00a - Blackledge Falls, Glastonbury: A 6-mile hike from the falls to Gay City State Park. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 02/05 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, February 8, 9:00a - Cedar Swamp Bushwhack, Chester: A bushwhack hike of between 4 and 6 miles in a frozen swamp with some of the largest Atlantic white cedars in CT. There will be an alternate hike if the swamp is not frozen. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots with traction devices. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. Contact me if you want to meet at the trail head. RSVP by 02/08 to Tony by phone or text at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, February 9, 10:00a - Walk Around Naubasetuck Lake, Mansfield: A 4- or 5-mile hike around the north section of Naubasetuck Lake using blue and ski trails. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots and winter traction devices recommended. Bring food and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Southeast School ball field parking lot in Mansfield. Take Route 6 in Mansfield to the exit for Route 195 (Storrs), drive straight through the next intersection, then turn left (north) on Route 195. Drive for 2.6 miles, turn right on Route 85, finally drive 0.8 miles to the entrance of the ball field parking lot on the right. RSVP by 02/08 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Wednesday, February 13, 9:00a - Nipmuck Woods and the White Farm, Stafford: A 6-mile hike in a new land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/12 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, February 16, 10:00a - McLean Game Refuge, Granby: A hike of up to 6 miles with climbs. We may climb West Barndoor Hill. Traction devices may be helpful. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots and winter traction devices recommended. Bring food and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the entrance lot on Routes 10 and 202. From I-91 take exit 40 and drive west on Route 20 for 9 miles to Granby Center. Be certain to exit the divided portion of Route 20 before you get to the airport. From Granby turn left (south) onto Routes 10 and 202 and drive 0.9 miles to the lot entrance. RSVP by 02/15 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Saturday, February 16, 1:00p - Day Pond Boil-up, Westchester: A 5-mile hike to an old mill site with a waterfall. A campfire will follow the hike. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 02/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

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Monday, February 18, 10:00a - Meshomasic State Forest - Dark Hollow Brook Section, Glastonbury: A hike of 6 to 8 miles in the State Forest around Dark Hollow Brook Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. Contact me if you want to meet at the trail head. RSVP by 02/18 to Tony by phone or text at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Wednesday, February 20, 9:00a - Wagner Woods and Great Pond State Forest, Simsbury: A 6-mile hike in a pine forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/19 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, February 23, 9:30a - Leadmine Mountain / OSV Conservation Lands, Sturbridge, MA: A 6-mile hike through woodlands near Sturbridge Village. Rating: C3. No kids but leashed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Hike will be canceled if there are no callers or the weather is bad. Meet at the main parking lot of Old Sturbridge Village. RSVP by 02/22 to Glenda at 860-659-3178.

Sunday, February 24, 8:30a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: This will be a 5- or 6-mile hike on some familiar trails and maybe unfamiliar trails with several views of the Connecticut River. Rating: C2. Kids who can keep up and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Winter traction devices may be needed. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather or deep snow cover cancels. Meet at the lot at Hurd State Park entrance. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and meet at entrance on the right in a half mile. Don't park at lot by traffic light. RSVP by 02/23 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

***Tuesday, February 26, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton:** Hurd Park Green Trail Rating: D1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots are recommended. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by 02/25 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, February 27, 9:00a - Bush Hill Preserve, Glastonbury: A 6-mile hike in a town park. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 02/26 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursday, February 28, 7:00p - Activities Planning Meeting, East Hampton: Come join us to plan the hikes, paddles, and other activities of your club. Even if you are not ready to lead a trip, please come see what this planning is all about. Bring your ideas for club events. Meet at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High Street, East Hampton. Park in the lot (off Route 66) next to the church which is on the northeast corner of Route 66 (High Street) and Main Street, East Hampton. Enter by the back door adjacent to the parking lot. RSVP by 02/28 to Tony by phone or text at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Friday, March 1, 8:30a - A New Milford Exploratory, New Milford: A 6-mile hike in the new Hallock Hills Nature Preserve with others. Bushwhacking is likely. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 02/28 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, March 2, 8:30a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: This will be an 8- to 10-mile hike with many ups and downs in this beautiful park with the chance to bail after 5 miles. Rating: C2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Winter traction devices may be needed. Bring lunch and drink. Steady snow or rain cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:30 or the Chatfield Hollow right-hand parking lot off Route 80 in Killingworth at 9:00. RSVP by 03/01 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

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Sunday, March 3, 9:15a - Buckingham Reservoir, Glastonbury / Manchester: A roughly 7-mile hike by interesting streams, pond, and rock formations. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Case Mountain Line Street lot. Directions: From I-384 eastbound, take exit 3, turn left at the light onto Route 83 south, and in 1.5 miles turn left onto Line Street. Drive 0.8 mile to the parking lot on the left. RSVP by 03/02 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

***Tuesday, March 5, 9:00a - Day Pond State Park, East Hampton / Colchester:** A 4- to 7-mile hike to and/or around Day Pond State Park depending on hiker choice and weather. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/04 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, March 6, 9:00a - Humaston Brook State Park, Litchfield: A 6-mile hike to a waterfall, an old mill site, and a block of the Mattatuck State Forest. Some bushwhacking is likely. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/05 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, March 8, 9:00a - Hurd State Park Total Bushwhack, East Hampton: A bushwhack hike of between 4 and 7 miles in Hurd State Park. We will try to **avoid** hiking on **any** of the established trails. See the park like you've never seen it before. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the lot at Hurd State Park entrance. From intersection of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and meet at entrance on the right in a half mile. Don't park at lot by traffic light. RSVP by 03/08 to Tony by phone or text at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, March 9, 9:30a - Gay City State Park to Pine and Garnet Ledges, Bolton / Glastonbury / Hebron: A roughly 6-mile hike to Pine and Garnet Ledges on the John Tom Loop trail. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Gay City State Park lot on Route 85, 2.0 miles north of Route 94 in Hebron for a 9:30 start. RSVP by 03/08 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, March 10, 9:30a - Hartman Park, Lyme: Roughly a 6-mile hike in a park with many interesting rock formations. Hike along streams, ponds, and old foundations. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking lot on Gungy Rd. Directions: From the south end of Route 11 in Salem, turn right. Take an immediate left onto Darling Road. In about 1.25 miles, turn left on Gungy Road. The parking lot will be on your left once you enter Lyme. RSVP by 03/09 to Connie at 860-690-9391.

***Tuesday, March 12, 9:00a - Shenipsit Trail, East Hampton:** An approximately 6-mile hike west on blue blazed trails. Rating: C2. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking lot off Woodchopper Road in the Meshomasic State Forest. From eastbound Route 66 at the intersection with Route 151 in Cobalt, drive for 1.2 miles and turn left on Cone Road. At the end of Cone Road turn left then immediately right on North Cone Road. Take the next right turn(half-right) onto Clark Hill Road. From that point drive for 0.7 mile and turn left to enter the state forest (Woodchopper Road). Drive 0.6 mile to the lot on the right. RSVP by 03/11 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, March 13, 9:00a - A Salmon River State Forest Hike, Marlborough / Colchester: An 8-mile hike in the Dickenson Creek block of the state forest. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/12 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, March 16, 2:00p - A Wildlife Pond Boil-up, East Hampton: A 5-mile hike in the Meshomasic State Forest followed by a campfire. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 03/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

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Sunday, March 17, 8:00a - Mt Pisgah and Mica Ledges, Durham / Madison: This will be about a 6-mile hike with many ups and downs and beautiful views. Rating: C2. Kids who can keep up and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Winter traction devices may be needed. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather or deep snow cover cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:00 or where the side trail ends on Pisgah Road in Durham at 8:25. To get there, go south on Route 79 from Durham for 0.8 miles, then turn right on Sand Hill Road, and take a quick left on Pisgah Road. The trail enters the woods 0.5 miles down that road. RSVP by 03/16 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

***Tuesday, March 19, 9:00a - Air Line State Park Trail with Palmer Preserve, Portland:** A 6- or 7-mile hike from the Depot Hill parking area associated with the Portland Air Line Trail. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring food and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Depot Hill parking lot off Depot Hill Road in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Cobalt and turn north on Depot Hill Road. The lot will be on the right up the hill in 0.2 mile. RSVP by 03/18 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, March 20, 9:00a - Champlain South Preserve, Old Lyme: A 6-mile hike in a land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 03/19 to John at 860-342-0658.

***Thursday, March 21, 10:30a - Hurd State Park Trails Maintenance, East Hampton:** After the regularly scheduled hike we will perform some maintenance activities including picking up trash near the Connecticut River and trail clearing as deemed necessary from prior two weeks. Rating: C3. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink as well as work gloves, loppers, etc. Alan will provide garbage bags. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by 03/20 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Saturday, March 23, 9:30a - Cockaponset State Forest, Chester: A roughly 7-mile loop hike by brooks and the Pattaconk Reservoir to an old charcoal site. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the hiker's lot on south side of Route 148 across from the Filey Road forest gate next to Sypher Road 2.4 miles west on Route 148 from Route 9 exit 6 for 9:30 sharp start. RSVP by 03/22 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, March 24, 10:00a - Garnet Trail, Glastonbury: About a 4-mile hike on a new trail in the Meshomasic landscape. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the pull-off on Goodale Hill Road at the unpaved Windham Road. Take Route 2 north from Marlborough to exit 10. Turn right (north) on Route 83 and drive for 0.6 miles then turn right on Forest Lane. Drive 2.6 miles as Forest Lane becomes Goodale Hill Road. The pull-off will be on the right. RSVP by 03/23 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

***Tuesday, March 26, 9:00a - Shenipsit Trail, East Hampton:** An approximately six-mile hike east on blue blazed trails. Rating: C2. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring water. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking lot off Woodchopper Road in the Meshomasic State Forest. From eastbound Route 66 at the intersection with Route 151 in Cobalt, drive for 1.2 miles and turn left on Cone Road. At the end of Cone Road turn left then immediately right on North Cone Road. Take the next right turn(half-right) onto Clark Hill Road. From that point drive for 0.7 mile and turn left to enter the state forest (Woodchopper Road). Drive 0.6 mile to the lot on the right. RSVP by 03/25 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, March 27, 9:00a - Sheepskin Hollow Preserve, East Haddam: A 6-mile hike in a land trust preserve. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your dinner, drinks, and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 03/26 to John at 860-342-0658.

PLEASE NOTE THAT HIKES WITH * DO NOT GET ADVERTISED OUTSIDE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Meshomasic Hiking Club Winter 2019 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; R=bike ride; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Saturday, March 30, 9:00a - Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve, Willington: A 4- or 5-mile hike in a town preserve around Taylor Pond and along the Fenton River. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring drinks and a snack. Optional lunch at Willington Pizza. Hike will be canceled if there are no callers or the weather is bad. Meet at the trail head on Burma Road near junction with Moose Meadow Road in Willington. Take I-84 to exit 69, then Route 74 east for 2.7 miles, turn left on Jared Sparks Road, drive 2.5 miles to turn right on Moose Meadow Road, finally 0.5 miles to Burma Road. RSVP by 03/29 to Glenda at 860-659-3178.

Sunday, March 31, 10:00a - Mashapaug Pond View Trail at Bigelow Hollow, Union: An approximately 5-mile hike with beautiful lake views. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking at the northern end of Bigelow Pond. From I-84 northbound, take exit 73, turn right and drive north on Route 190 for 1.9 miles. Turn right on Route 171 and drive 1.4 miles more, then turn left into Bigelow Hollow State Park which will be after a long hill and a pond on the left. From the entrance drive the park road for 0.5 miles to the lot on the left. RSVP by 03/30 to Bob at 860-942-2505.